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Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 EB-07 IGA-02 /084 W
---------- 048760
R 310501Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1777
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0914

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, PFOR, EG, QA
SUBJ: AMIR OF QATAR ON ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT

REF: DOHA 0894

1. DURING AUGUST 30 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, AMIR OF QATAR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, CONFIRMED THAT QATARI SHARE OF GODE FUND WAS $200 MILLION.

2. WE NOTED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAD BEEN QUOTED TO EFFECT THAT GOE'S NEEDS IN THE TEN TO TWELVE BILLION DOLLAR RANGE. AMIR REPLIED THAT ASHRAF MARWAN HAD MADE SPECIAL TRIP TO MEET WITH HIM WHILE HE, KHALIFA, WAS VACATIONING IN FRANCE IN MID-AUGUST TO EXPLAIN SADAT'S STATEMENT. HE IMPLID THAT MARWAN HAD ALSO PUT BITE ON HIM FOR MORE MONEY. KHALIFA NOTED THAT SADAT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO VISIT QATAR ON HIS WAY BACK FROM COLOMBO SUMMIT, BUT BECAUSE OF AMIR'S ABSENCE HE DID NOT DO SO. (COMMENT: SOME SOURCES ALLEGE THAT AMIR DODGED SADAT TO AVOID BEING DUNNED FURTHER. END COMMENT)

3. KHALIFA ASSERTED THAT GOQ HAD ASSISTED EGYPT BEFORE
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FORMATIONOF GODE VIA RABAT PAYMENTS, CONTRIBUTION WHEN SADAT

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VISITED DOHA IN FEB (DOHA 203), ETC., AND WAS PREPARED TO
DO MORE. AMIR STATED THAT IT WAS IN RICH ARABS INTEREST TO
SUPPORT EGYPT GENEROUSLY, SINCE IT KEY TO MEDEAST AND HENCE
WORLD STABILITY AND PEACE. HE NOTED THAT SADAT WAS IN
PROCESS OF REVERSING NASSER'S ECONOMIC POLICIES AND ADJUSTING
TO TERMINATION OF SOVIET AID, AND THAT THIS WAS COSTLY AND
SLOW PROCESS AND "EGYPTIANS MUST EAT" IN MEANTIME. HE EXPRESSED
CONFIDENCE IN LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF EGYPTIAN ECONOMY. HE
WARNED THAT IF SADAT FAILED, SOVIET BACKED COMMUNISTS WOULD
TAKE OVER AND NEVER AGAIN BE DISLODGED FROM EGYPT, AND THIS
WOULD IMPERIL WHOLE AREA.

4. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR OF AMIR'S SYMPATHY
FOR SERIOUS EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THAT USG SHARED
AMIR'S VIEW OF CENTRALITY OF EGYPT TO AREA PEACE. WE
COMMENTED THAT ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS TO EGYPT WERE IMPORTANT TO USG
IN JUSTIFIYING OUR OWN AID EFFORTS BEFORE CONGRESS.
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